

**FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING
NOVEMBER 9, 2015
Frederick County Workforce Services, Frederick Room**

PRESENT: Mary Beachley, Dr. John Brown, Ernell Graham, Carol Haag, Katie Rhinehart-Hemler, Tom Lawler, Mayor Randy McClement, Tish Raff, Bobbie Speace

EXCUSED: Council Member M.C. Keegan-Ayer, Sue Ramsburg, Dianne Lewis

NOT EXCUSED: Elizabeth Chung

GUESTS: Louise Lynch, Katie Nash, Meg Motter, Thea Ruff, Saul Pak (FCC student)

STAFF PRESENT: Pat Rosensteel, Carolyn True, Ian Zile, Karen Saul

Chair Carol Haag called the meeting to order at 1:00PM and asked those in attendance to introduce themselves. Carolyn True introduced new Department staff members Karen Saul, Volunteer Program Coordinator and Ian Zile, Program Specialist.

Action on the Agenda –There were no changes to the agenda.

Approval of the Minutes – Upon a motion by Tish Raff, seconded by Tom Lawler, the minutes of October 12, 2015 were unanimously approved.

Presentation – Carol Haag

Carol reviewed a power point presentation she created entitled “Frederick County Seniors Today – Challenges and Opportunities. “ This detailed presentation can be used by members when they are speaking to community groups or others in their network of friends and colleagues about the issues older adults are handling. Citizens can also learn more about the work of the Commission.

Comprehensive demographic information about the County’s seniors including income, race, statistics about those at or below poverty levels, challenges such as housing, adequate nutrition, income, and access to health care were described in Carol’s presentation. Opportunities for change and creativity (i.e. the Villages, Bridges Program) were included as ways the Commission can help older adults age in place. National information about aging issues including the origin of the Commission was included. A slide was provided at the end of the presentation which provided sources from where Carol obtained the information.

Carol shared that although there is a copyright on the presentation, it can be tailored as needed for the audience. She offered to accompany members when they speak to groups so members do not have to go by themselves. Members appreciated the work that Carol put into the creation of the presentation and Carol agreed to send the presentation to Commission members.

Director’s Report – Carolyn True

Carolyn shared the report she presented to the Seniors First Committee on October 28, 2015. She summarized the report because of its length and noted a variety of activities have occurred that begin to address the goals contained in the needs assessment and the Senior Leadership report. Items of note include the:

- *Goal 2 (Ensure senior wellness and quality of life)* - Groceries for Seniors food distribution in cooperation with Seed of Life and Western Maryland Food Bank
- *Goal 2-* Increased number of routes in the Meals on Wheels program,

- *Goal 2* - Three chair dental clinic that is planned in cooperation with FMH (who is taking the lead), the University of Maryland School of Dentistry and local dentists who can serve as adjunct faculty.
- *Goal 2 and 3 (3= Provide resources for Senior Services)* - Recent hiring of the Volunteer Coordinator and Program Specialist.
- *Goal 2* - Continued partnership with Towson, Shepherd and Hood nursing classes who are offering nutrition surveys, emergency preparedness information and basic health screenings respectively at the senior centers. Results of their presentations will occur this month and early December.
- *Goal 2*- The health Department is working toward hiring a nurse caseworker and Community Health Nurse.
- *Goal 2* - MAP Bridge funding application that was tentatively approved by the Maryland Department of Aging and is currently going through the County staff review process. Acceptance of these funds will enable the Department to hire a part-time individual who will conduct a Level 1 screening on clients who call and express a need for long term services and supports. Completion of the screen will add these individuals to the Registry for eventual services and will give the Department experience in conducting the screening tool in anticipation of the formal start of collecting federal financial participation (FFP). FFP enables the Department to be reimbursed for the time a staff person spends on billable activities under Medicaid. Using Bridge funds eliminates the risk to County funds and enables the Department to gain history and experience in conducting the screening.
- *Goal 3 (Provide resources for senior services)* – Carolyn distributed a list of formal and informal partnerships the Department has developed over the years. Additional organizations that should be added to the list include the Frederick Arts Council, RSVP, Seed of Life, Western Maryland Food Bank, Affordable Housing Council, Frederick County Mediation and the University of Maryland / Communications 424 class.
- *Goal 4 (Ensure seniors have adequate and affordable housing and health care)* – the County will consider proposals for 520 North Market Street from organizations interested in converting the property into affordable senior and workforce housing and retail space. It is on a bus line and convenient to downtown businesses for employment and shopping.
- *Goal 4* – Seton Village in Emmitsburg is open and all apartments are full. A waiting list has started but the affordable rents are attractive to older adults.
- *Goal 5 (Provide transportation options for use by Seniors)* -The Taxi Voucher program will be available before the end of the year and will allow patrons to use the vouchers when they need to use them and not during a proscribed time determined by the County.
- *Goal 5* - Partners in Care continues to operate by providing volunteer transportation for members who need to go to medical appointments, the grocery store and other general errands. The organization needs volunteers as the requests for service across the county exceed the number of available volunteers.

The recently published resource guide was distributed so members could become more familiar with its contents.

OLD BUSINESS

Business Task Force – Tom Lawler

Tom stated that the November meeting was cancelled. A flyer is being created for employers to share with employees about care giving resources. A spring educational workshop targeted at employers is also being planned with the help of the Chamber of Commerce.

Elder Expo – Ernell Graham

Ernell said she thought the Expo was well attended. Attendees seemed to enjoy seeing the pictures of the COA members on the Commission's table.

Funds for Commissions and Boards – Carol Haag

Carol shared a handout of items that could be included as part of a FY'17 budget for the Commission. Mileage reimbursement for out of county meetings, funding for refreshments for a Senior Legislative forum, business cards and name tags for COA members, copier paper, copies of an updated brochure and other miscellaneous expenses all totaled \$2,065. The request can be included as part of the Department's budget appeal early next year.

COA legislation – Tish Raff

Tish Raff noted a few of the upcoming bills that will be presented during the 2016 General Assembly session. Specifically, she outlined the provisions of the Death with Dignity proposal sponsored by Senator Ron Young, and AARP's Family Caregiver Act. Both pieces of legislation were introduced for the first time last year.

Bylaws – Carol Haag

Carol shared that the bylaws approved by the COA last month removed the 20% provider restriction. Instead, language was added that included all those who could be included as members. She said that the Seniors First team will be reviewing the role of the COA as part of its deliberations. Louise Lynch noted her concern about the 20% provider limitation that was included in the Ordinance. She believes it should not have been included.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee – Katie Rhinehart Hemler

No report

Partners in Care – Ernell Graham

No report

Seniors First – Mary Beachley and Tish Raff

Mary stated that the group has had 2 meetings and Cindy Powell and Melanie Cox agreed to serve as co-chairs; Mary is the vice-chair. She stated that since Carolyn summarized the report presented at the

most recent meeting, she did not want to repeat it. The next meeting will be held on November 18, 2015 at which time subcommittees will be set up. Cindy Powell is preparing a summary of the needs assessment action items, goals and progress. Mary was asked to have the bylaws available at this meeting. Carol noted that she asked Sue Ramsburg to put them in final form.

Announcements

1. Carol requested that those who offered to prepare a section for the Commission's annual report to send the information to her by the end of the month. There is no specified format for the presentation of the information.
2. Katie Rhinehart-Hemler stated that her Introduction to Gerontology class at FCC has been reviewing the goals in the needs assessment and will present their ideas for implementation of them on December 3, 2015. She invited members to attend the presentation.
3. Katie also said that the *Celebration of Life* event benefitting Meals on Wheels will be held on November 14, 2015 and SOAR's fundraiser, *A Toast to the Holidays*, will be held on November 21, 2015.
4. Carol Haag stated that the members from the Commissions in surrounding counties have been invited to attend the December COA meeting at which time Teja Rau, Chief of Long Term Services and Supports at the Maryland Department of Aging will offer a presentation about the Maryland Access Point (MAP) program. The meeting will be held in the Monocacy Room at Frederick County Workforce Services on December 14, 2015 at 1PM.
5. For next year, Carol stated she would like to arrange the meetings and the locations of them one year in advance so that people have notice of the locations and the programs. She prefers to hold the meetings in various locations so members have the opportunity to see different facilities.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 PM.

Respectfully,

Carolyn B. True, Director
On behalf of Susan Ramsburg, Recording Secretary